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order to employ them, if males, in their hardeſt labour, or, if females, either for wives or concubines; and ſometimes the neighbouring villages went to war for quarrels that happened among the children; or for neglecting to invite each other to their entertainments.

Their wars are carried on more by ſtratagem than bravery; for they are ſuch cowards that they will not openly attack any one unleſs forced by neceſſity: this is the more extraordinary, becauſe no people ſeem to deſpiſe life more than they do, ſelf-murther being here very frequent. Their manner of attacking is this: in the night-time they ſteal into the enemy's village, and ſurpriſe them, which may eaſily be done as they keep no watch; thus a ſmall party may deſtroy a large village, as they have nothing more to do than to ſecure the mouth of a hut, and ſuffer no body to come out, which only one can do at a time; therefore whoever firſt attempts to eſcape is knocked down, or obliged to ſubmit to be bound.

The male priſoners which they take, eſpecially if they are men of any conſequence, are treated with all manner of barbarity, ſuch as burning, hewing them to pieces, tearing their entrails out when alive, and hanging them by the feet. This has been the fate of ſeveral *Ruſſian* Coſſacks during the diſturbances of *Kamtſchatka*; and theſe barbarities are exerciſed with great ſhew of triumph and rejoicing.

Theſe private differences among themſelves were very uſeful to the Coſſacks in their conqueſt of the whole nation; for when the natives ſaw the latter attacking one village, ſo far were they from aſſiſting their countrymen, that they rejoiced at their deſtruction, not conſidering that the ſame was to be their fate next.

In their wars with the Coſſacks, they deſtroyed more by ſtratagem than by arms; for when the Coſſacks came to any village

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village to demand their tribute, they were received with all marks of friendſhip, and not only the tribute was paid, but likewiſe great preſents were made them. Thus the natives having lulled them into a ſtate of ſecurity, they either cut their throats in the night-time, or ſet fire to their huts, and burnt them with all the Coſſacks which were within. By ſuch ſtratagems 70 people were deſtroyed in two places, which, conſidering the ſmall number of Coſſacks that were there, was a very conſiderable loſs: nay, it has ſometimes happened that when they had no opportunity of deſtroying the Coſſacks at firſt, they have for two years quietly paid the tribute, waiting 'till they could find an opportunity of doing it.

By this cunning the *Kamtſchadales* deſtroyed at firſt many Coſſacks, but now the latter are more upon their guard, and are particularly afraid of extraordinary careſſes, always expecting ſome bad intention when the women in the night-time retire out of their huts. When the *Kamtſchadales* pretend to have dreamed of dead people, or go to viſit diſtant villages, there is reaſon to dread a general inſurrection.

When this happens, they kill all the Coſſacks which fall in their way, and even the *Kamtſchadales* who will not join in the rebellion. As ſoon as they hear that troops are coming againſt them, inſtead of going to oppoſe their enemies, they retire to ſome high place, which they fortify as ſtrongly as they can, and building huts there, wait 'till they are attacked, and then they bravely defend themſelves with their bows and arrows, and every other method they can think of; but if they obſerve, that the enemy is likely to make themſelves maſters of the fortreſs, they firſt cut the throats of their wives and children, and afterwards either throw themſelves down the precipice, or with their arms ruſh in upon their enemies that they

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726 may not dye unrevenged: this they call making a bed for them-
762 ſelves. In the year 1740, a girl was brought from *Utkolok* whom the rebels in their hurry neglected to kill; the reſt were all murthered, and the rebels threw themſelves from the hill, upon which they were fortified, into the ſea.

669 From the time that *Kamtſchatſka* was ſubdued, there have
726 been only two rebellions which could be properly called ſo. The
175 firſt happened in the year 1710, in *Bolſcheretſkoi Oſtrog*; and
R. the other in the year 1713 upon the river *Awatſcha*. Both
177 of them were, however, unfortunate for the authors. In the
.72 firſt, great numbers beſieged the *Bolcheretſkoi* fort, in which were only 70 Coſſacks, 35 of whom making a ſally put them all to flight, and in endeavouring to reach their boats which brought them thither, in the hurry ſuch numbers were drowned that the river was almoſt choaked up by their dead bodies. The rebels upon the *Awatſcha* thought themſelves ſo ſure of deſtroying the *Ruſſians* that they brought thongs to bind them; however the rebels were either all killed or taken priſoners.

411 Their arms are bows and arrows, ſpears, and a coat of mail: their quivers are made of the wood of the larch-tree, glued round with birch-bark; their bow-ſtrings of the blood veſſels of the whale; and their arrows are commonly about four feet long, pointed with flint ſtones, or bone; and though they are but indifferent, yet they are very dangerous, being all poiſoned, ſo that a perſon wounded by them generally dies in twenty-four hours, unleſs the poiſon be ſucked out, which is the only remedy known. Their ſpears are likewiſe pointed with flint or bone; and their coats of mail are made of mats, or of the skins of ſeals and ſea horſes, which they cut out into thongs, and plait together. They put them on upon the left ſide, and tie them with thongs upon the right; behind is fixed a high board to defend their head, and another before to guard the breaſt.

When